



State of
California



Department of Toxic
Substances Control

Public Involvement

FACT SHEET, June 2005

DTSC Response Actions Continue at the BKK Landfills Facility

This fact sheet continues efforts by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to keep the community informed about DTSC's emergency response actions at the BKK Landfills Facility. This fact sheet provides current information about our recent activities and the June 21, 2005 Proposition 65 vinyl chloride letters issued by the BKK Corporation. DTSC will issue additional fact sheets as new information becomes available and we initiate or complete significant activities.

DTSC's November 2004 fact sheet informed the community that DTSC had initiated an emergency response action to ensure that essential landfill activities continued at the BKK Facility. Then, in March 2005, DTSC issued a fact sheet explaining the vinyl chloride sample results from the Nogales area. That fact sheet was updated on DTSC's website in April.

The BKK Facility is located at 2210 South Azusa Avenue, West Covina, California. (Please see map on page 2)

Improvement of Site Conditions

Over the past several months DTSC has focused on maintaining all of the Facility's essential systems. DTSC's contractor continues to concentrate on two main categories of work: keeping all essential systems operational and repairing specific items to help improve the overall performance of the Facility. Following are some examples of crucial work.

Picture of Cleared Vegetation



Maintenance of the 190-acre Class I (hazardous waste) landfill cap is very important. This several-foot thick cap contains all of the landfill waste and prevents migration of gases generated by degradation of the waste. One of the main tasks is to cut back overgrown vegetation to prevent interference with the cap's irrigation system. This several-mile long irrigation system keeps the cap from drying and cracking. Its pipes and sprinklers must also be constantly maintained in order to keep the cap moist.

Another key component of the landfill irrigation system is a one-million gallon water storage tank located at the top of the Class I landfill. Water is pumped into this tank to be used to irrigate the cap. A project currently underway involves draining this tank for a short period of time so that the interior tank walls can be inspected and repaired.

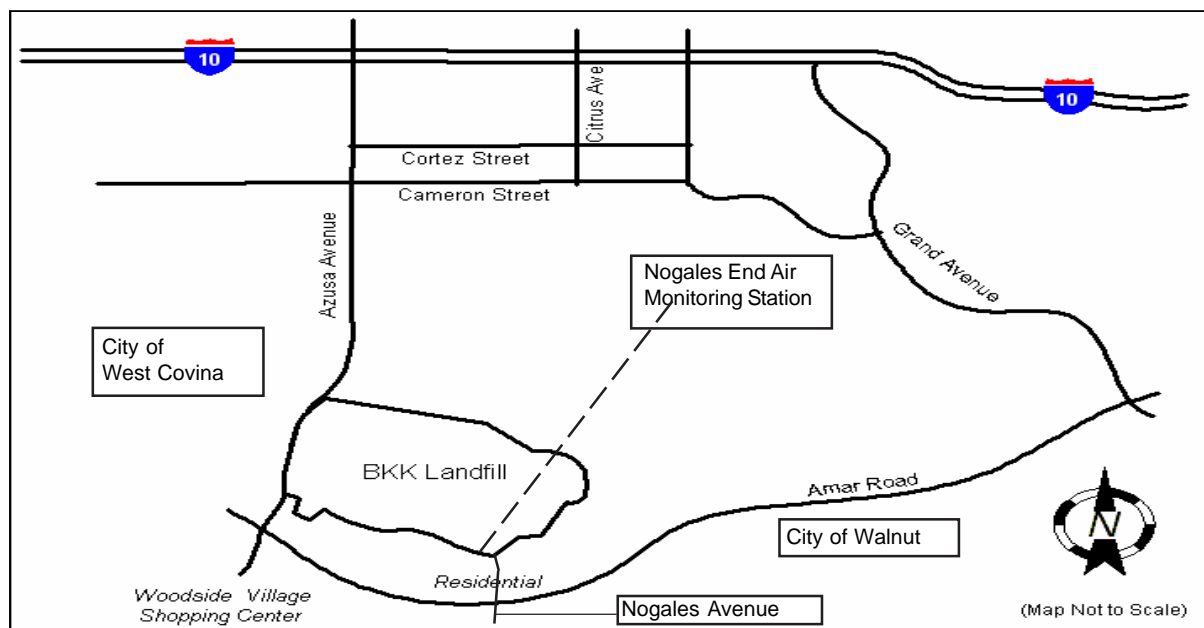
The Facility's perimeter air monitoring system has also been enhanced to increase the ability to detect gases, such as vinyl chloride, that may be coming off the Facility in low levels. Two new air monitoring stations (stations 13 and 14) were placed along the eastern boundary for the Facility. In addition, air samples are collected on a weekly basis at the stations located in and around the area where Nogales Street intersects the southern edge of the Facility. (See attached Site map or DTSC's website at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/BKK/index.html>)

The Status of Vinyl Chloride Releases and Proposition 65 Warnings

DTSC's March fact sheet and its April update also informed the community about California's Proposition 65 requirements and the BKK Corporation's issuance of Proposition 65 notices concerning releases of vinyl chloride in residential areas. BKK, as the owner and operator of the Facility, has issued several Proposition 65 warnings for vinyl chloride over the years. Most recently, BKK issued a Proposition 65 warning letter on June 21, 2005 to sixteen residences on Marlena Street, Myra Court and Nogales Street. BKK issued similar letters to three residences on December 21, 2004 and to eight residences on March 21, 2005. The letters informed the residents that the average concentration of vinyl chloride measured at the BKK Nogales End air monitoring station (Station 3 on the attached map) in the preceding twelve months exceeded 0.05 parts per billion (ppb).

Over the past six months at the Nogales End air monitoring station, concentrations of vinyl chloride have ranged from nondetectable levels to 0.645 ppb. Levels are expected to go up and down while the work continues to identify emission sources and make repairs. A variety of tasks are currently underway to reduce gas emissions in this area. Examples are:

- Additional landfill gas collection wells are being rehabilitated;



- Gas collection from the top of the Class I landfill is being increased;
- Storm drain inlets are being checked and sealed to prevent any gas migration from these areas; and
- The entire top and south side of the Class I landfill are being closely evaluated with gas detection instruments to identify specific sources of gas emissions that can then be repaired.

DTSC toxicologists still conclude that the vinyl chloride levels do not pose an immediate health threat to the residents in the area. The toxicologists also continue to evaluate the sampling results obtained at the Nogales End air monitoring station on a regular basis. Additional information about vinyl chloride can be found at DTSC's website at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/BKK/index.html>

Public Outreach

DTSC's public participation program provides the community with an opportunity to actively participate in our decision-making process. Our public participation staff identifies interested individuals and their concerns. We develop mailing lists of interested people, establish convenient public sites to house documents, mail printed information to the community, hold public meetings and briefings, and respond to community inquiries.

Recently, community members completed a public participation survey to help DTSC understand the communication needs and assess the community's interest in the BKK Facility. DTSC received 189 surveys from the community and business leaders. Community members indicated that they are very interested in the site and want to receive information on an on-going basis. DTSC thanks those individuals who took the time to respond to our inquiry.

In the next few months, DTSC will complete a Public Participation Plan/Community Relations Plan based on the survey results and community interviews. This plan will describe the affected community and outline future community outreach efforts.

Picture of Clearing Vegetation from around the Gas and Leachate Infrastructures



Additional Information

Additional information and documents regarding the BKK Facility are available on DTSC's website at:
<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/BKK/index.html>

DTSC will keep you updated on the status of this project. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the information in this fact sheet or any questions regarding DTSC's activities at the BKK Facility, please contact one of the following DTSC personnel:

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Information Repositories

Documents regarding the BKK Facility can be reviewed at the following locations:

West Covina Public Library
1601 West Covina Parkway
West Covina, California 91790

Walnut Public Library
21155 La Puente Road
Walnut, California 91789

Department of Toxic Substances Control
1011 North Grandview Avenue
Glendale, California 91201

Mailing Coupon

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ARE YOU ON DTSC's MAILING LIST?

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail and would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive information about BKK Landfills, please complete this coupon and return it to: Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Comment: _____

☐ Please take me off the mailing list.

Note: While the mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.